

NEWS

From the Office of

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Ordinance to Control Pit Bull Population Approved

SAN BERNARDINO – An ordinance requiring all pit bull and pit bull-type dogs in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County to be spayed or neutered was approved today by the Board of Supervisors.

“This ordinance has the objectives of reducing the clear overpopulation of pit bulls in our County, encouraging responsible pet ownership and, most important, reducing the number of vicious attacks on people,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who worked with the County’s Animal Care & Control Division to create the ordinance. “In the past five years, four people in San Bernardino County have been killed by this breed, and just this year there have been seven attacks by pit bulls. No other breed has viciously attacked or killed anyone in that time.”

The ordinance requires all owners of pit bull and pit bull-type dogs over the age of 4 months to have their dogs spayed or neutered. Additionally all such dogs used for breeding and housed in a licensed dog kennel will be required to be licensed.

State law (California Health and Safety Code Sections 122330-122331) prohibits any breed of dog from being deemed potentially dangerous or vicious. However, the law allows local agencies to enact breed-specific programs for spaying and neutering to control over-population.

Pit bull-type dogs represent about 20 percent of all dogs admitted to county animal shelters. They are one of the top three breeds impounded at county shelters and are the number one breed to be euthanized.

Pit bull owners will be required to spay or neuter their dogs within 30 days of implementation of the ordinance. Animal Care and Control will help pet owners comply with the ordinance by offering education and spay-neuter vouchers to those who are eligible.

“The most important component to increasing the safety of our residents in relation to pit bulls is responsible pet care,” said Supervisor Mitzelfelt. “I hope one result of today’s ordinance will be increased awareness of the danger that results when dogs are not cared for correctly.”

For more information or to access San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control services call 1-800-472-5609, or visit the division’s website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc.